

From: [Tammy Bachman](#)
To: [Jhana Enders/R6/USEPA/US@EPA](#)
Subject: Native American Indian Cultural Center
Date: 08/21/2012 02:53 PM

Jhana,

I have completed my research into the American Indian Cultural Center lands and its classification as possible tribal land. It is my opinion that the lands are not tribal lands but state lands owned by the American Indian Cultural and Educational Authority which is a state agency/authority created by Oklahoma Statute. The referenced statute is 74 O.S. §1226, et seq. These statutes contained herein create the authority for the benefit of Indian and non-Indian citizens of the State of Oklahoma and authorize the authority to construct and maintain the Cultural Center and issue revenue bonds. The Authority is defined as a body corporate and politic and is constituted an Agency of the State. Its governing board consists of 7 members appointed by the governor who are members of Indian tribes and 6 members who range from the Lt. Governor of the State of Oklahoma, Director of the Oklahoma Historical Society, the Secretary of Commerce of the State of Oklahoma, the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Arts Council, and the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Tourism and Recreation Department, as well as four members appointed from the business community.

The Authority is authorized and empowered to acquire, hold and dispose of real property and to lease portions thereof to other governmental agencies, private persons, partnerships, corporations, trusts and other private entities. Such acquisition of property is to be acquired in the name of the Authority. Meaning that as a State entity, the property would be therefore held by the American Cultural and Educational Authority, ex rel The State of Oklahoma. In researching this issue, I was able to determine that the lands were once owned by the City Of Oklahoma and were donated by the City of Oklahoma to the Authority sometime in the early to Mid 1990s. The records from the Oklahoma County Assessor's Office which were provided to you during your initial visit confirm ownership of the property by the Authority.

I hope this information is helpful in addressing your concerns regarding the classification of the site. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (580) 220-9656.

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